



City of East Palo Alto



Office of the City Manager

May 17, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Ribbon Cutting Opens Pedestrian Overpass Joining the Two Sections of East Palo Alto

East Palo Alto, CA – On Saturday, May 18, East Palo Alto residents led by East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier and Caltrans Bay Area Director Tony Tavares will celebrate the opening of a long-awaited pedestrian and bicycle overpass that crosses over US 101 and joins the two sections of the city. Among others attending the community celebration at 10 a.m. will be State Senator Jerry Hill, State Assemblyperson Marc Berman, and San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum.

“Our residents and city leaders have expressed a need for a better way to cross over Highway 101. This overpass brings us together physically and is symbolic of joining and sharing resources. This project increases public safety and improves the quality of life by making the community more walkable and reducing some of the short vehicle trips. We have been looking forward to this for many years. We could not have done it without the support of our Federal, State, and County representatives and our partnership with Caltrans and CCAG,” said East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier.

“This overpass is a symbol of the future of California’s transportation network, connecting communities, improving safety and providing new mobility options for thousands of residents,” said Caltrans Bay Area Director Tony Tavares. “Funding from California’s Active Transportation Program made this project possible and is allowing Caltrans to redefine transportation, creating a more robust bicycle and pedestrian system which includes safer routes to schools and reduces greenhouse gases.”

The overpass unites neighborhoods and improves access for residents. One-third of the city is on the west side, across the freeway from the area with the most conveniences: all the schools, major retail shopping outlets, parks and community centers are on the east side of the freeway.

“Before this, if you didn’t have a car, someone would have to walk or ride along the busy, traffic-laden streets to get across to schools, shopping centers and parks. Now residents on the other side can take a shorter bike ride or easily walk to shopping, schools and parks,” said Vice Mayor Regina Wallace-Jones.

The construction took 18 months from start to completion. The overpass connects at Newell Road and Clarke Avenue. The total cost is \$14 million. The City received \$8.6 million from California’s Active Transportation Program and the other is from a combination of local funds.

Activities and contributors of the day include Live-In-Peace Bike Shop for free bicycle giveaways and repairs; and MacDonald’s, Togos/Baskin Robbins for food item certificates.

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